

PEFC forest management certification for woodland owners



For further details, visit the PEFC Ireland website www.pefc.ie, or contact the National Secretary William Merivale at william@pefc.ie

PEFC International's expansion the world over continues to grow apace. About 255 million hectares of forest are now certified to PEFC endorsed standards, represented by over 750,000 forest owners. During the last year both the Chinese and Indonesian forest certification schemes have been endorsed by PEFC, representing a significant advance for sustainable forest management in South East Asia. The rapid growth of PEFC to become the world's largest certification system and its popularity among family and community forest owners are a testament to the solid foundation on which PEFC is built and its importance in promoting sustainable forest management globally.

Nearly 16,000 companies have achieved PEFC Chain of Custody certification, and in addition the Consumer Goods Forum (CGF), one of the largest global industry networks, now recommends PEFC certification as an integral part of its set of guidelines designed to help achieve zero net deforestation by 2020. The CGF brings together more than 400 of the world's largest retailers, manufacturers and service providers from 70 countries, and with combined sales of €2.5 trillion, so this move is a further significant independent endorsement of PEFC.

Concerns surrounding possibly the two greatest challenges currently facing mankind, namely climate change and the energy crisis, have highlighted more than ever the importance attached to managing the world's forests responsibly. Sustainable forest management has a crucial role to play in combating global warming, and wood is an important component in the hunt for alternatives to fossil fuels. PEFC initiatives remain at the forefront in tackling these issues.

At home, we are pleased to report that Coillte was awarded PEFC forest management certification by its certification body NSAI in June 2014. For private owners, work has been completed on laying the foundations of a Group Certification Scheme, and it is anticipated that 2015 will see the first private group scheme ready to apply for forest management certification. Furthermore, in the manufacturing sector a number of joinery companies have been added to the list of PEFC Ireland chain of custody certified members.



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